

Appln. No. 10/040,854

Attorney Docket No. 10541-192

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

After entering this Amendment, claims 2-25 remain pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form is gratefully acknowledged. Claim 11 is now presented in independent form including all the limitations of its base claims and any intervening claims. Since dependent claims necessarily include all the limitations of their intervening claims, it is submitted that this amendment of claim 11 is not a narrowing amendment and does not give rise to any estoppel issues with regard to their interpretation under the Doctrine of Equivalents or limitations on that doctrine. The remaining claims have been amended to be dependent on claim 11 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as stated above.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 13, 15, 16, 22 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,291,516 issued to Dixon et al. (Dixon) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,137,826 issued to Boesch (Boesch). Claims 3 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dixon in view of Boesch and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,591,661 to Benedetto. Claims 4-6, 9, 10, 17, 18, 20, 21, and 27-30 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dixon in view of Boesch and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0029,541 to Baranowski et al. (Baranowski). Claims 7-8 were

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rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dixon in view of Boesch and Baranowski and further in view of U.S. Application No. 2003/099,261 to Higuchi. Claims 12 and 25 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dixon in view of Boesch and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,073,899 to Collier (Collier). Claim 14 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dixon in view of Boesch and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,022,046 to Morrow.

As stated previously, claims 2-10 and 12-25 have been amended to depend on claim 11, which the Examiner previously indicated as being allowable if rewritten into independent form. Therefore, claims 2-10 and 12-25 are allowable for at least the same reasons as given for claim 11. Claims 26-30 have been cancelled. According, allowance of claims 2-25 is respectfully requested.

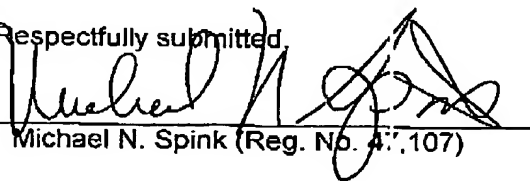
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is requested.

8/4/05

Date

Respectfully submitted,


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